

Message Text

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FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM HICOMTERPACIS MARIANA ISLANDS
DATED JANUARY 5, 1978 SENT ALL EA DIPLOMATIC POSTS, LONDON, PARIS,
USUN NEW YORK, HONG KONG, CINCPAC, CINCPACFLT,
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SUBJ: IMPLEMENTATION OF NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT

PASS CONSULS

SUMMARY: IMPLEMENTATION OF NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH COVENANT

WITH INAUGURATION OF GOVERNOR JAN 9 WILL PRACTICALLY EFFECT NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS' SEPARATION FROM TRUST TERRITORY TO ESTABLISH NEW
RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. IMMEDIATE IMPLICATIONS POSTS SHOULD BE AWARE
OF INCLUDE APPLICABILITY OF U.S. LAWS, COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMMONWEAL
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GOVERNMENT, AND IMMIGRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. PURSUANT TO 1975 COVENANT TO ESTABLISH A COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN

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PAGE 02 STATE 013432

MARIANA ISLANDS (NMI) IN POLITICAL UNION WITH US, AND TO A PROCLAMATI
ON

BY PRESIDENT CARTER OF 24 OCTOBER 1977,THE NMI WILL INAUGURATE A NEWL
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ELECTED GOVERNOR (CARLOS CAMACHO), LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (FRANCISCO ADA

),

AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH OFFICIALS AT 1100 JAN 9. MOST PROVISIONS OF COMMONWEALTH COVENANT WILL GO INTO EFFECT SIMULTANEOUSLY, COMPLETING MOST ASPECTS OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE NMI INTO THE U.S. POLITICAL FAMILY.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS STEP IS NOT LIMITED TO NMI, WHICH IS THE FIRST

TRUSTEESHIP (OR PART OF ONE) TO OPT, BY OVERWHELMING POPULAR VOTE IN 1975 REFERENDUM, FOR PERMANENT POLITICAL UNION WITH THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY. WHEN PERFECTED BY TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP EXPECTED TO BE IN 1981, NMI WILL ALSO CONSTITUTE FIRST EXTENSION OF U.S. TERRITORY

SOVEREIGNTY SINCE 1917 (VIRGIN ISLANDS).

3. AS OF JAN 9, MOST ELEMENTS OF U.S. CONSTITUTION AND LAWS WILL BECOME

APPLICABLE TO NMI. APPLICABLE LAWS INCLUDE FISHERIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT (MAGNUSON) ACT, AND A WIDE VARIETY OF FEDERAL SERVICES AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. CITIZENS OF NORTHERN MARIANAS WILL NOT FORMALLY ACQUIRE U.S. CITIZENSHIP UNTIL TERMINATION OF TRUSTEESHIP.

BUT AS OF JAN 9 WILL BE ENTITLED TO "ALL PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF CITIZENS IN THE SEVERAL STATES OF THE UNITED STATES". IN PARTICULAR, UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 013432

PRESENT NMI RESIDENT COMMISSIONER IS CREATING OFFICIAL NMI CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY WHICH, WHEN RECOGNIZED BY INS AND DEPARTMENT, WOULD ENTITLE BEARERS TO RIGHTS OF ENTRY TO U.S. AND DIPLOMATIC PROTECTION ABROAD ACCORDED TO U.S. CITIZENS. COMMONWEALTH COVENANT PROVIDES, IN EFFECT, THAT NMI WILL CONTROL ITS OWN IMMIGRATION, AND U.S. IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION LAWS, WITH CERTAIN MINOR EXCEPTIONS, WILL REMAIN INAPPLICABLE TO NORTHERN MARIANAS. U.S. MINIMUM WAGE LAWS WILL ALSO NOT APPLY.

4. AS OF JAN 9, UNCLASSIFIED TELEGRAPHIC TRAFFIC TO OR CONCERNING NMI

SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO RUHGSAA GOVNM, AND UNCLASSIFIED TRAFFIC TO OR CONCERNING TTPI SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE ADDRESSED TO RUHGSAA HICOMTERPACIS. STATUS LNO, WHILE NOT DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH NORTHERN MARIANAS DEVELOPMENTS, WILL OF COURSE BE GLAD TO ASSIST WITH MATTERS AFFECTING EITHER NMI OR TTPI. MAILING ADDRESS FOR COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IS: GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS, 96950.

5. ENTRY AUTHORITIES FOR TTPI (DISTRICTS OF PALAU, YAP, TRUK, PONAPE, KOSRAE, AND MARSHALL ISLANDS) AND NMI ARE NOW WHOLLY DISTINCT, AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS DIFFER SOMEWHAT AS WELL. U.S. CITIZENS OR NATIONAL

S

AND THIRD-COUNTRY-NATIONALS MAY ENTER TTPI WITH VALID TRAVEL DOCUMENT
AND ONWARD TICKET SHOWING THEY ARE ABLE TO LEAVE, PROVIDED THEY COME
FOR TOURISM ONLY AND INTEND TO STAY NO LONGER THAN THIRTY DAYS;
THIRD-COUNTRY-NATIONALS MUST ALSO HAVE U.S. TRANSIT OR OTHER VISA.
THOSE INTENDING TO STAY IN TTPI IN EXCESS OF THIRTY DAYS, OR
ENTERING FOR PURPOSES OTHER THAN TOURISM, MUST ALSO OBTAIN TTPI ENTRY
PERMIT. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR NMI WILL BE SAME EXCEPT THAT THIRD-
COUNTRY-NATIONALS DO NOT NEED U.S. VISA, AND AFTER JAN 9 U.S. CITIZEN
S

WILL NOT NEED ENTRY PERMITS. APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY PERMITS FOR TTPI
AND NMI SHOULD BE ADDRESSED RESPECTIVELY TO CHIEF OF IMMIGRATION,
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PAGE 04 STATE 013432

TTPI, AND CHIEF OF IMMIGRATION, GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS, BOTH AT SAIPAN, M.I., 96950.
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